

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:SGEIS:RF
APPROVED BY PM - RAERICSON
EUR/NE - MR. WOODS
NEA/RA - COL. GROSS
DOD/DSAA - COL. DILLARD
ACDA - COL. FORD

-----128537 231410Z /47

R 230058Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:MASS, SW, NO, PK, SZ, IR

SUBJECT: SALES OF RBS 70, ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE

1. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, GENERAL STAHL, SWEDEN'S
ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR, CALLED ON ACTING PM DIRECTOR RICHARD
ERICSON TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION ON RBS 70 MAN
PORTABLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE AND TO DISCUSS INTEREST OF
SWEDEN IN SELLING THE SYSTEM TO FOREIGN CUSTOMERS. ALSO
PRESENT FROM THE SWEDISH EMBASSY WERE CAPTAIN FORSMAN, THE
DEFENSE ATTACHE, AND MATS BERGQUIST, THE POLITICAL
COUNSELOR.

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2. STAHL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SWEDISH DEFENSE MARKET WAS TOO
SMALL TO ECONOMICALLY SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF ADVANCED
WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THAT BOFORS, THE MANUFACTURER OF THE
RBS 70, WAS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOME FOURTEEN FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS FOR THE SALE OF THE SYSTEM. STAHL THEN PRO-
VIDED A SHORT BRIEFING ON THE RBS 70 WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS

WEIGHING 195 POUNDS AND COMPOSED OF THREE MAIN SECTIONS: THE MISSILE IN A TUBE, AN OPTICAL SIGHT WITH LASER DESIGNATOR, AND A TRIPOD ON WHICH THE SIGHT AND MISSILE TUBE ARE MOUNTED. THE MAXIMUM RANGE IS 5 KILOMETERS AND THE COST ABOUT \$100,000 WITH THE MISSILES THEMSELVES COSTING ABOUT \$20,000. TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE THE WEAPON,

AN INDIVIDUAL REQUIRES THIRTY HOURS OF TRAINING IN A SIMULATOR.

3. STAHL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT USG OPPOSITION TO THE SALE OF MAN PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS (MANPADS) WAS BASED ON A DESIRE TO LIMIT THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR USE BY TERRORISTS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE RBS 70 AS NOT BEING SUITABLE AS A TERRORIST WEAPON BECAUSE IT IS HEAVY, WEIGHING 195 POUNDS AS COMPARED WITH THE US REDEYE OR SOVIET SA-7 WHICH WEIGH ABOUT 30 POUNDS. BECAUSE OF THIS SIZE AND WEIGHT DIFFERENCE, THE RBS 70 IS HARDER TO CONCEAL AND REQUIRES TWO MEN FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION. ADDITIONALLY, EXTENSIVE TRAINING IS REQUIRED TO OPERATE IT. STAHL STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THE SWEDISH EXPORT OF THE WEAPON, AND HE ADDED THAT SWEDEN WILL REQUIRE A CUSTOMER TO PLACE THE WEAPON UNDER SPECIAL SECURITY RESTRICTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE THE USG REQUIRED OF SWEDEN FOR THE SALE OF REDEYE MISSILES TO THE GOS. AS POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS, STAHL NAMED PAKISTAN,

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NORWAY, SWITZERLAND, AND IRAN. PAKISTAN WAS CHARACTERIZED AS BEING VERY INTERESTED, BUT THE GOS HAD NOT DECIDED YET TO APPROVE ANY SALES. STAHL RULED OUT SALES TO ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT, AND SAID AFRICA WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION BECAUSE IT WAS NO USE TO SELL A SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM TO UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO COULD NOT MAINTAIN IT. HE THEN ADDED THAT PAKISTAN WAS QUITE CAPABLE OF ABSORBING THE RBS 70.

4. ERICSON TOLD STAHL THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF MANPADS WERE OUR OWN INTERNAL POLICY AND ALTHOUGH THAT THE USG HAD NO FORMALIZED POSITION TO RESTRICT SALES BY OTHER COUNTRIES, WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM FALLING INTO TERRORIST HANDS. SALES TO NATO MEMBER NATIONS WOULD NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR THE USG, AND OUR ATTITUDE ON SALES OUTSIDE OF NATO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE SECURITY CONTROLS SWEDEN WOULD REQUIRE OF ITS CUSTOMERS. ERICSON THEN EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN WHICH RESTRICTED THE SALE OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THAT COUNTRY. HE ASKED STAHL TO KEEP US INFORMED OF POTENTIAL SALES AS THEY FIRMED UP, BUT STATED THAT WE

COULD NOT GREET ANY SALE OF THE RBS 70 WITH JOY.

5. FYI. BECAUSE STAHL VISIT WAS INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING AND NO SPECIFIC REQUEST WAS MADE FOR SALES TO PAKISTAN, ERICSON DID NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS US REACTION TO SUCH A SALE. THE SWedes WERE TOLD, HOWEVER, DURING LIEFLAND'S VISIT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ON DECEMBER 28, 1977,

THAT THE USG WOULD OPPOSE RBS 70 SALES TO PAKISTAN. DEPARTMENT IS NOW CHECKING WITH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND MUNITIONS CONTROL TO DETERMINE IF THE RBS 70 CONTAINS US ORIGIN COMPONENTS OR TECHNOLOGY WHICH REQUIRE PRIOR USG APPROVALS FOR THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER. SALES TO NATO NATIONS WOULD NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR USG AS LONG AS

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THE EFFORT FOR NATO STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY WERE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED. SHOULD EMBASSY HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING US INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OR DEVELOPMENT OF THE RBS 70, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT. SHOULD SWEDEN REQUIRE THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE USG FOR THIRD PARTY SALES OF THIS SYSTEM, WE WOULD NOT APPROVE SALES TO PAKISTAN. END FYI. VANCE

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